

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 (canceled). A compression device for use by a mother in helping a baby latch onto her breast behind a nipple, said device comprising a pair of opposed fingers adapted to embrace opposite sides of a portion of the breast centered on the nipple, means for moving said fingers towards each other for compressing the breast tissue behind the nipple to shape the breast into more of a V-shaped wedge whose long axis is generally aligned with the baby's lips and means for holding said fingers in selected spaced apart position compressing the breast until the baby latches onto the breast.

2 (canceled). The compression device of claim 1 further including means for moving the fingers away from each other for releasing the breast after the baby has latched.

3 (canceled). The compression device of claim 2 wherein the fingers embrace a substantial portion of the breast about 1 to 2 inches behind the nipple.

4 (canceled). A compression device for use by a mother in helping a baby latch onto her breast behind a nipple, said device comprising a spring biased clip having a pair of fingers and a spring attached to the respective fingers for forcing the fingers to move towards each other and a pair of handles formed as an extension of the fingers for moving the fingers away from each other, said fingers adapted to embrace opposite sides of a portion of the breast centered on the nipple and spaced back from the nipple by 1 to 2 inches, said fingers adapted to compress the breast tissue behind the nipple into more of a V-shaped wedge whose long axis is generally aligned with the baby's lips, said handles adapted to release the breast after the baby has latched onto the breast.

5 (canceled). The compression device of claim 4 formed of metal or plastic and wherein the fingers are padded.

6 (canceled). A compression device for use by a mother in helping a baby latch onto her breast behind a nipple, said device comprising a spring biased clip of single piece construction having a pair of fingers and a spring attached to the respective fingers for forcing the fingers to move towards each other, said fingers adapted to embrace opposite sides of a portion of the breast centered on the nipple and spaced behind the nipple and compress the breast tissue behind the nipple into more of a V-shaped wedge whose long axis is generally aligned with the baby' s lips.

7 (canceled). The compression device of claim 6 wherein the fingers and the spring are formed of a bendable wire in a C-shape.

8 (canceled). The compression device of claim 6 wherein the fingers and the spring are formed of a bendable wire in an oval loop.

9 (canceled). A method for assisting a mother in helping a baby latch onto her breast behind a nipple, comprising the steps of:

applying a device for compressing the breast tissue behind the nipple to shape the breast into more of a V-shaped wedge with a long axis, said device comprising a pair of opposed fingers adapted to embrace opposite sides of a portion of the breast centered on the nipple and spaced behind the nipple, said device having means for holding said fingers in selected spaced apart position compressing the breast;

positioning the baby so that its lips are generally parallel with the long axis of the wedge of breast tissue; and,

releasing the breast tissue from the device after the baby has latched.

10 (canceled). The method of claim 9 wherein the device for compressing the breast is a spring biased clip having a pair of fingers and a spring attached to the respective fingers for forcing the fingers to move towards each other and a pair of handles formed as an extension of the fingers for moving the fingers away from each other.

11 (new). A method for assisting a mother in helping a baby latch onto her breast having a nipple surrounded by an areola, comprising the steps of:

providing a device with a pair of outwardly and oppositely bowed fingers adapted to apply an equalized force on opposite sides of a portion of a breast centered on a nipple and spaced behind the nipple, said device having means for holding said fingers in selected spaced apart position compressing the breast into a V-shaped wedge and making the areola into an oval;

applying said outwardly and oppositely bowed fingers to a breast behind the nipple;

positioning a baby so that its lips are generally parallel with a long axis of a V-shaped wedge of breast compressed by the device; and,

allowing a baby to latch onto a breast with an areola flattened by the device into an oval accommodating insertion into a baby' s mouth.

12 (new). The method of claim 11 wherein the means for holding said fingers in a selected spaced apart position is a spring attached to the respective fingers for forcing the fingers to move towards each other and a pair of handles formed as an extension of the fingers for moving the fingers away from each other.

13 (new). The method of claim 11 further comprising releasing the breast from the device after a baby has latched.